

MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (GOCI)
MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (MCIA)
MINUTES OF JUNE
MEETING:
Monday, June 6, 2011
Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Avenue, Conference Room C-1
Annapolis, Maryland
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Present: Chair Auriel A. Fenwick, Virginia Busby, Wanda Lee, Cornelius Allen Red Deer, Guy Wells

Absent: Vice Chair Thomas W. Windsor II, Kathryn E. Robbins Fitzhugh, Sherry Majors

Staff Present: E. Keith Colston, Agnes M. Smith

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Chair Auriel A. Fenwick called the meeting to order. Prayer by Chief Rudy Hall.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Administrator Keith Colston's report included highlights of meetings attended, outreach, opportunities, etc. Administrator Colston spoke about transporting the Piscataway Indian Nation (PIN) petition to Mr. Phil Deters for "re-redaction" of volume 11.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
SWEAT LODGE:

Commissioner Guy Wells noted that he spoke with Chaplain Hancock at ECI and things are going well there. He noted that at the Western Facility they are still waiting for assistance in setting the Lodge up.

Administrator Colston asked if a Ms. Campbell had gotten in contact with them in initiating other Sweat Lodges. Commissioner Cornelius Red Deer noted there has not been contact.

REPATRIATION:

Commissioner Virginia Busby noted that they haven't met as a whole group for six months. They decided at the last full meeting of the working group that they would tear off and have some working groups accomplish certain tasks. She noted that Administrator Colston, Mr. Bob Gajdys and herself met at the Trust with Trust staff which included their legal representative Mr. Phil Deters to discuss what progress the Trust had made on reburial. She noted that they have succeeded in having the geographically un-affiliated remains reburied at Jefferson Patterson Park. They are working on getting the other geographically identifiable remains idea places and MOU documents worked out. They are trying to move forward in getting the other remains in the ground. Commissioner Busby noted that the Chiefs from the Eastern Shore have gone out to some State owned land on the Eastern Shore. They have selected some sites that seem to fit their needs. She noted that the Trust is drafting a letter for the Secretary to brief him on the progress and present some decision memos to him to include his sentiments on if remains could be reburied on State land that wasn't controlled by the Maryland Historical Trust. She noted that Jefferson Patterson Park is Maryland Historical Trust property. They have been discussing early on in the meeting negotiations about using other State lands to include the Department of Natural Resource land, forestry, etc. She noted that the Chiefs had taken some investigations on site of

some of the lands on the Eastern Shore. Commissioner Busby noted that the Trust staff felt that the Secretary needs to make a statement whether they can keep pursuing this line of being able to bury remains on other kinds of land (Veteran cemeteries, DNR, etc.). She noted that at the end of June the Trust staff will present an updated report to the Secretary with the decision memos hoping for a response in a reasonable amount of time. Commissioner Busby noted that they encouraged the Trust staff to expedite this. She noted that the Eastern Shore remains are the most likely to be placed in the ground next. Commissioner Busby noted that there was a little bit of miss-understanding of what it was the Chiefs purpose of going out and identifying potential sites. She noted that they finally came out of the meeting with an agreement that they want to solicit the input to get some kind of description (map) of the results from the Chiefs that was identified as acceptable to provide to Trust staff to analyze. Commissioner Busby noted that this is a step in the right direction that they want to receive this information. They understand the due diligence of the tribal leaders identifying places as part of the process. She noted she was glad that they wanted to receive this information. Commissioner Busby noted that the Commission Working Group needs to have a conference call to assess their status and projected time frame and goals. She noted that they will contact Chief Crowe again to address some of his concerns about Western Maryland.

Chair Fenwick noted that there was prior conversation about what land was deemed appropriate. She asked if this was being re-visited or exhibits being submitted. Commissioner Busby noted that she thought we were farther down the road where there was no need for the Secretary's approval for reburial on DNR land. Chair Fenwick agreed and thought their requisite was easement to the property. Commissioner Busby noted that at the beginning they developed their preferences as a group. It was discussed that the easiest and fastest way to do it was to choose State owned land. You wouldn't have to change State law, no consultation progress with federal tribes, etc. She noted that it's easier to have them on Trust land but it's doable on other State agencies land.

EDUCATION:

Commissioner Wanda Lee

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIII. BENEDICTION/ADJOURNMENT

Chief Rudy Hall

Motion to adjourn Commissioner Majors

Seconded by Commissioner Wells

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.